

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GABORO 02458 071629Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /066 W  
-----122087 071642Z /46

O P 071053Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2868  
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRORITY  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2458

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, BC, SF

1. RADIO BOTSWANA AUGUST 6 AND 7, CARRIED STORY REPORTING  
DETENTION IN RSA OF DEAN MICHAEL MOLALE, ANGLICAN DEAN  
OF BOTSWANA (NUMBER TWO IN ANGLICAN CHURCH HIERARCH HERE).  
ACCORDING TO STORY, DEAN MOLALE HAD BEEN DETAINED ON  
JULY 26, DURING BRIEF STOPOVER IN JOHANNESBURG ON WAY  
TO VISIT FAMILY IN TRANSKEI. RADIO ACCOUNT NOTED HE HAD  
FORMERLY SERVED AS PRIEST IN SOWETO. THIS ACCOUNT SUB-  
STANTIALLY CORROBORATED BY SOME OF DEAN MOLALE'S CON-  
GREGATION EVENING AUGUST 6.

2.ON AUGUST 7, CHARLES TIBONE, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRE-  
TARY TO PRESIDENT (AND HEAD OF GOB REFUGEE AFFAIRS) TOLD  
DCM HE HIMSELF WAS UNAWARE OF MOLALE'S DETENTION UNTIL  
HE HEARD RADIO REPORT. IT APPARENTLY WAS BROUGHT TO  
ATTENTION OF RSA AND BOTSWANA MEDIA BY MOLALE'S FAMILY  
WHEN HIS SISTER IN JOHANNESBURG RECEIVED A LETTER  
FROM JOHN VORSTER SQUARE INFORMING HER THAT SA  
POLICE WERE HOLDING HER BROTHER; SHE IN TURN IN-  
FORMED MOLALE'S WIFE IN BOTSWANA. TIBONE SAID  
MOLALE REPORTEDLY WAS LUNCHING AT JAN SMUTS AIR-  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 02458 071629Z

PORT, WHEN PERSON INFORMED HIM HIS FLIGHT WAS BOARD-  
ING. THAT INDIVIDUAL APPARENTLY WAS POLICE OFFICIAL,  
SINCE MOLALE WAS UNHEARD OF FROM THAT TIME UNTIL HIS  
SISTER RECEIVED THE LETTER FROM SA POLICE.  
THUS FAR SAG HAS NOT OFFICIALLY BEEN APPROACHED BY,  
NOR ACKNOWLEDGED TO GOB THAT MOLALE BEING HELD, AL-  
THOUGH TIBONE SAID GOB WOULD MAKE FORMAL REPRESENTA-

TIONS TO MFA TODAY IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE CHARGES AGAINST MOLALE AND, HOPEFULLY, TO SECURE HIS RELEASE. TIBONE SAID NO ONE KNEW WHY MOLALE, A BOTSWANA CITIZEN, HAD BEEN DETAINED; SOME SPECULATED IT MIGHT BE BECAUSE MOLALE HAD ASSISTED FORMER ANGLICAN VICAR OF SOUTHWEST AFRICA MORROW DURING HIS BRIEF STOPOVER IN BOTSWANA.

3. COMMENT: MOLALE IS ACTIVE IN SOWETO REFUGEE AFFAIRS HERE, AND REPORTEDLY WAS ARRANGING TO CONVERT A RENTED HOUSE INTO HOSTEL FOR FORMER SSRC - CONNECTED REFUGEES. WE RECALL HIM AS ANGLICAN CLERGYMAN WHO OPENED MEMORIAL SERVICE HERE FOR ROBERT SOBUKWE. HE IS KNOWN AS A MODERATE PERSON ADVOCATING NON-VIOLENCE; NEITHER THE MORROW NOR THE REFUGEE CONNECTION WOULD ON THE FACE OF IT APPEAR TO BE JUSTIFICATION FOR SAG DETAINING BOTSWANA CITIZEN. WE MIGHT NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SAG NOT FAMOUS FOR ITS SENSITIVE HANDLING OF ANGLICAN CHURCH IN BOTSWANA; LATE LAST YEAR THE (AMERICAN) ANGLICAN BISHOP HERE AND HIS FAMILY WERE TREATED TO RATHER RUDE SEARCH OF THEIR AUTOMOBILE BY SAG BORDER OFFICIALS. THEY LATER HAD TROUBLE OBTAINING VISAS FOR ENTRY INTO RSA, WHICH PROBLEM WAS RESOLVED ONLY AFTER INTERVENTION BY LADY KHAMA, THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE. END COMMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 02458 071629Z

4. APPRICATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION INFO ADDEES MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE. NORLAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DETENTION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978GABORO02458  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780322-1152  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** GABORONE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780893/aaaaczvc.tel  
**Line Count:** 97  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** e36f1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1822757  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DETENTION OF ANGLICAN DEAN OF BOTSWANA  
**TAGS:** SHUM, SREF, BC, SF, (MOLALE, MICHAEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e36f1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014